ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1950.

G. H. POTTER, M.O.H.

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FOR THE YEAR 1950.

Councillor A. GUEST, J.P., C.C. (Chairman).

Councillor J. A. SIMPKIN (Vice-Chairman).

Councillors D. BENNETT, P. BRADLEY, J. GASKELL, J.P., A. A. HESKETH, T. MURTON, W. NIXON, T. PARKINSON. J. D. PEEL, S. PRESTON, J. T. SIMM.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor J. T. SIMM, (Chairman), and all members of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health : Dr. G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector : Mr. A. F. GREEN, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Orrell.
August, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the Orrell Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District of Orrell for the year 1950.

Comment is required on the following matters of the report. The number of births increased, the total for 1950 being 145 as against 130 in 1949, producing an Annual Birth Rate of 16·0 per 1,000 of the population, an increase of 1.8 over the preceding year. The Birth Rate for England and Wales is 15·8. There was a decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate from 48 per 1,000 live births in 1949 to 21 in 1950. The actual number of deaths of Infants under 1 year of age during 1950 was 3 compared with 7 in 1949. The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 29·8.

The General Death Rate is lower at 14.2 per 1,000 estimated population than the preceding year which was 15.3.

The Maternal Mortality Rate was again Nil for 1950.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department and especially to the Sanitary Inspector for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire to express to the members of the Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. H. Potter,

Medical Officer of Health.

1.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in Acres	1,617
Population (Census 1931)	6,949
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population (Mid-1950)	9,140
Number of Inhabited Houses :—	
(*a*) Census 1931	1,682
(*b*) End of 1950 according to Rate Books	2,845
Rateable Value	£36,138
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£151

Orrell is a residential district in an agricultural area with middle and working class houses built largely along the main roads and backed by farm lands.

Coal mining, engineering and the cotton industry afford the chief employment. They are situated mainly outside the area.

Vital Statistics.

		Total.	*M.*	*F.*
Live Births	Legitimate	139	65	74
	Illegitimate	6	4	2
	Total	145	69	76
Still Births		5	2	3
	Total	5	2	3
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	Legitimate ..	3	1	2
	Illegitimate ..	–	–	–
	Total ..	3	1	2
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	Legitimate ..	3	1	2
	Illegitimate ..	–	–	–
	Total	3	1	2
Total No. of Deaths		107	62	45

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	16.0
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	14.2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	33.0
Maternal Mortality :—	
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	Nil.
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births ..	Nil.
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	21
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births ..	22
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births ..	Nil.
Neo-Natal Mortality :—	
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	3
Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	21
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	16
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	Nil.

Table I.

Per 1,000 *of Estimated Population.*

	Live Birth Rate.	*Crude Death Rate.*	*Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.*	*Cancer Death Rate.*
Mean of 5 years 1945-49	17.9	12·5	0·28	1.68
Year 1949	14.2	12·6	0.44	1.74
Year 1950	15.9	11.7	0.11	*—
Increase or decrease in 1950 :—				
On 5 years average 1945-49 ..	—2.0	—0·8	—0·17	—
On previous year .	+1.7	—0.9	—0.33	—

*The particulars of cancer deaths supplied for 1950 are not strictly comparable with those of previous years, the cancer death-rate for 1950 has therefore been omitted.

	Maternal Mortality Rate. *Per* 1,000 *Live Births.*	*Per* 1,000 (*Total Live and Still Births*).	*Rate of Deaths under* 1 *year per* 1,000 *Live Births.*
Mean of 5 years 1945-49	1.29	1.25	51.0
Year 1949	Nil	Nil	54.0
Year 1950	Nil	Nil	21.0
Increase or decrease in 1950 :—			
On 5 years average 1945-50 ..	— 1.29	— 1.25	— 33
On previous year .	Nil	Nil	— 33

The following table shows the chief causes of death and the number of deaths during 1950 :—

TABLE II.

Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1
Tuberculosis, other	–
Diphtheria	–
Whooping Cough	–
Meningococcal infections	–
Acute Poliomyelitis	–
Measles	–
Cancer	19
Leukæmia and Aleukæmia	–
Diabetes	–
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	16
Coronary disease, Angina	10
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1
Other Heart Diseases	17
Other Circulatory Disease	2
Influenza	1
Pneumonia	–
Bronchitis	9
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	–
Nephritis and Nephrosis	–
Hyperplasia of Prostate	–
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortions	–
Congenital Malformations	2
Accident, Suicide and other violent causes	2
All other causes	24
	107

2.—General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Laboratory Arrangements.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Wigan Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Monsal Hospital, Manchester.

Ambulance Services.—Infectious, non-infectious, accident and maternity cases are dealt with by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Wigan Corporation under an agency agreement with the Lancashire County Council.

The arrangements are adequate and satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, 1948.—No action was taken under section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

3.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.—The water supply is mainly derived from an old mine shaft at Dean Wood. The supply has been constant and of good quality as shown by frequent bacteriological examinations. The water is chlorinated before being supplied direct to the houses by public mains. Additional plant was in the course of construction for filtration and æration of the water, together with a new storage reservoir of 120,000 gallons capacity.

All the houses in the district have a piped supply of water, and the mains are flushed regularly to remove " ochre " deposits.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Sewage is treated by Wigan County Borough at their sewage disposal works at Hoscar.

There are approximately 50 houses in the Abbey Lakes area not drained to a public sewer due to being below the level of the present sewerage system. Sewage disposal at these houses is by means of small septic tanks and filters, almost all of which are situated in the gardens of the houses.

Sanitary Accommodation. There are 38 privy middens with 63 closets serving 71 houses in the district. No conversions were carried out during the year. The Council approved a grant towards the cost of converting 6 privy middens to waterclosets in Oxhouse Road, and the owner agreed to carry out this work. In spite of frequent requests to the contractor to expedite the conversion the work still remained outstanding at the end of the year. Other owners of property where privy middens exist were also approached during the year in attempt to secure conversion, but little success was achieved. This is probably due to the fact that most of the properties concerned are old and considerably sub-standard in other ways.

No. of	Privy Middens	38
,,	Closets attached to Privy Middens	63
,,	Pail Closets	6
,,	Freshwater Closets	2,903
,,	Waste Water Closets	Nil
,,	Dry Ashpits	6
,,	Moveable Ashbins for Refuse	2,863
,,	Houses on Water Carriage System	2,780

Public Cleansing.—Three men are engaged full time on Street Cleansing under the supervision of the Surveyor.

One 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam Refuse Collection Vehicle and six men are engaged on refuse collection and disposal which is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. It is becoming difficult to maintain even a fortnightly collection of refuse, particularly during the winter months.

The refuse is disposed of by tipping along Captain's Clough on the southern boundary of the district.

Fire broke out on the tip and caused considerable nuisance to the occupants of the houses nearby. Unfortunately the tip has become a playground for children who light fires, fill the brook with refuse and litter the surrounding fields with broken glass. Complaint was made by the Lancashire Rivers Board concerning the amount of rubbish in Smithy Brook, as a result of which one man had to be taken off refuse collection for two or three weeks during the summer in attempt to clean out the brook. More supervision is required on the tip to prevent unauthorised persons sorting over and carting away articles from the tip, and to control the tip generally.

Summary of Dustbins, Ashpits and Privies Emptied, and Loads Removed during the Year.

No. of Ashpits Emptied	495
,, Dustbins Emptied	75,324
Loads of Refuse Removed	1,468

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

No. of	Premises Visited	698
,,	Nuisances Discovered	314
,,	Nuisances Abated	236
,,	Informal Notices Served	161
,,	Statutory Notices Served	11
,,	Legal Proceedings	Nil

The following inspections were carried out during the year :—

Housing (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	249
Drainage	116
Sanitary Conveniences	47
Dustbins	102
Accumulations	5
Paving of Yards and Passages	5
Keeping of Animals	7
Stables and Piggeries	2
Dirty and/or Verminous Premises	25
Moveable Dwellings	3
Workplaces	2
Enquiries after Infectious Disease	4
Rats and Mice	83
Refuse Collection	17
Refuse Disposal	29
Miscellaneous Inspections	32

Schools.—The six schools in the district are all supplied with a piped supply of water from the public supply and five are provided with separate water closets with separate provision for flushing. At one of the schools, however, automatic flushing of the closets still exists.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades in the district nor any premises in which rag flock is manufactured or sold.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are no common lodging houses in the district and no houses let in lodgings.

Factories.—28 inspections were made of the factories in the area. The condition of the factories was generally satisfactory. Two outworker's premises were visited and found satisfactory during the year.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.—There are no camping sites within the district and no moveable dwellings were licensed by the Council during the year. One caravan, even though an application by the owner for licensing was refused by the Council was still stationed on unlicensed land at the end of the year.

Shops.—95 Inspections of shops were made during the year under the provision of the Shops Act, 1934. Conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

Atmospheric Pollution.—No action was taken during the year.

Swimming Bath and Pools.—There are none in the district.

4.—Housing.

Statistics.—88 Permanent traditional type houses were completed and tenanted at Rivers Street, Ash Grove and Cedar Grove.

70 houses and 12 bungalows remain to be constructed to complete the Moor Road Housing Site.

The greater portion of the dwelling houses in the district have been constructed since 1925. Many of the older houses are substandard and if it was not for the general shortage of housing accommodation would certainly be scheduled for demolition. Unfortunately these houses are having to be kept "alive," and only the most urgent of repairs are carried out, often at considerable expense to the owners. The chief defects of this type of house are dampness, defective roofs, absence of adequate food storage, unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation, and general dilapidation of the structure.

Many houses, from which the tenants are being re-housed by the Council and which are unsuitable for re-occupation, are being re-let to persons, against the advice of the Council, who undertake to carry out all repairs to the property. This is a bad practice and will probably result in considerable hardships to the tenants.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(1) By the local authority	88 Permanent.
(2) By other local authorities	Nil.
(3) By other bodies or persons ..	8

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1 (*a*)	Total No. of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	149
(*b*)	No. of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	258
2 (*a*)	No. of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	9
(*b*)	No. of inspections made for the purpose	18
3	No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	80

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers .. 39

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

(*a*) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. Nil.

2. Number of dwelling houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit :—

(*a*) By owners .. .. Nil.

(*b*) By local authority in default of owners .. .. Nil.

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 8

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners 1

(*b*) By local authority in default of owners .. .. Nil.

(*c*) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. Nil.

(*d*) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or room having been rendered fit .. .. Nil.

(4) Housing Act, 1936, Part IV., Overcrowding :—

(*a*) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year (found by inspection during the year only) .. 3

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 5

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 28

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 3

(*c*) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. Nil.

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. Nil.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

1. *Milk Supply.*—At the end of 1950 the following number of licences had been granted by the Council under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations :—

Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designations :—

(*a*) " Tuberculin Tested "	2
(*b*) " Pasteurised "	4
(*c*) " Sterilised "	23

Sampling.—Four samples of ungraded milk and one sample of " Pasteurised " milk were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these, the sample of " pasteurised " milk was found to be satisfactory, while two only of the ungraded samples were satisfactory.

Three samples of milk were also submitted for biological examination, in all of them there was no evidence of tuberculosis infection.

2. *Ice-Cream.*—There is only one manufacturer of ice-cream within the district and during the year more satisfactory equipment was installed at these premises to conform to the requirements of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

Of the 15 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream, at only two is loose ice-cream sold.

During the year 3 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, 1 sample was Grade 1, while the other two, both of which were from the same manufacturer, fell into Grades 3 and 4.

3. *Meat.*—There is no slaughterhouse within the district. Notification was received of only 3 pigs slaughtered under the self suppliers scheme, each one was examined. The butchers' shops in the district were inspected regularly and, in most cases, were found to be very satisfactory.

Prevalence of and Control Over Infectious Disease.

Scarlet Fever.—6 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during 1950, as against 20 during 1949. None of the cases were removed to hospital.

Diphtheria.—It is pleasing to note that for the third year in succcssion there were no cases of diphtheria notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—During the year, 152 pre-school children, and 59 school children completed the full course of primary immunisation. In addition 402 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

Pneumonia.—There were five cases of Pneumonia notified during 1950.

Measles.—44 cases were notified during the year, as against 54 during 1949.

Whooping Cough.—There was a decrease in the number of cases notified, 13 cases compared with 36 during the preceding year.

Erysipelas.—There was only one case of Erysipelas notified during the year.

Food Poisoning.—It is pleasing to note that there was no outbreak of food poisoning during the year.

Disinfection.—If the necessity for steam disinfection arises the apparatus at Whelley Hospital may be utilised.

Cancer.—16 deaths were certified as due to cancer during the year.

Radium treatment is available to Orrell residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary.

Tuberculosis.—This service is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board and patients attend at the Dispensary, Millgate, Wigan.

Nine new cases were notified during 1950, all being cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year.

Notification of the disease in the district is satisfactory, and no action was necessary under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to compulsory removal of patients to hospital.

The following table shows the new cases of the disease and the deaths in age groups.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	*New Cases.*				*Deaths.*			
	Respiratory.		*Non-Respiratory.*		*Respiratory.*		*Non-Respiratory.*	
Years.	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*
0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
10	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
15	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
20	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
25	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
35	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
45	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
55	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
65	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
75 and upwards	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals	4	5	–	–	1	–	–	–

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases.
Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) during 1950.

Notifiable Diseases.	*Total cases at all ages.*	*Age Periods Years.* — 0	— 1	— 3	— 5	— 10	— 15	— 25	— 45	65 *and over.*	*Total deaths.*	*Total cases removed to hospital from the district.*	*Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district.*
	(*a*)										(*b*)	(*c*)	(*d*)
Smallpox	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Scarlet Fever ..	6	–	1	2	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Diphtheria (including Membraneous Croup)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid) ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Paratyphoid Fever	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Measles (excluding Rubella)	44	1	4	7	32	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Whooping Cough..	13	2	1	6	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Acute Pneumonia Primary and Influenzal ..	4	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–
Puerperal Pyrexia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cerebro-spinal fever	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Acute Poliomyelitis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Acute Polio-encephalitis ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Acute encephalitis Lethargica ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dysentery.. ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Erysipelas.. ..	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Food Poisoning ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals ..	68	3	6	17	38	1	–	–	3	–	–	–	–